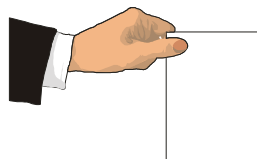


## Summer 2001

### Routing Slip

☐ Managers  
☐ Supervisors  
☐ Mechanics  
☐ Drivers



Please share the **Passenger TransActions** with other members of your staff. Don't let it get buried on your desk.

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## Important Updates on the FY 2002 CTF Budget

The FY 2002 Comprehensive Transportation Fund (CTF) budget, as well as a CTF Supplemental Budget for FY 2001, has been signed by the Governor. The FY 2002 CTF budget is \$238,631,700 compared to \$230,995,900 in FY 2001, an increase of \$7,635,800 or 3.3 percent. In addition, the supplemental appropriation for FY 2001 provided an additional \$21,875,000 over the budget adopted last year.

### Formula Operating Assistance

The amount appropriated for formula operating assistance for FY 2002 is \$158,500,000 compared to \$150,652,700 in FY 2001, an increase of \$7,847,300 or 5.2 percent. The supplemental appropriation in FY 2001 for \$4,600,000 will be added to the \$150,652,700 which is currently being distributed.

### Other Passenger Transportation Division (PTD) Program Funding Levels for FY 2002

Specialized Services: \$3,939,500 (an increase of \$190,000)  
 Municipal Credit: \$2,000,000  
 Bus Transit Capital: \$14,574,400 (a decrease of \$467,900 and supplemental increase of \$9,445,000)  
 Planning Grants: \$120,000  
 Ridesharing: \$330,700  
 Vanpooling: \$195,000  
 Service Development/New Technology: \$325,000  
 Regional Service Coordination: \$1,000,000  
 Work First Initiative/Project Zero: \$5,000,000 (an increase of \$1,020,800)  
 Intercity Service Development: \$1,300,000 (an increase of \$324,500 & supplemental \$30,000)  
 Intercity Terminals: \$1,628,300 (an increase of \$628,300)  
 Intercity Bus Equipment: \$2,000,000 (a decrease of \$324,500)  
 Marine Passenger: \$800,000

(continued on page two)

## FY 2002 CTF Budget Updates

(continued from page one)

### Boilerplate Language

The budget also includes some new boilerplate provisions that impact PTD programs:

- The department, in collaboration with the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), and intercity bus carriers, shall facilitate the planning of a multimodal transportation center for southeast Michigan.
- The department, in cooperation with local transit agencies, shall ensure that demand-response services are provided throughout Michigan.
- The department shall explore the potential uses of Transportation Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, which may be made available to the Comprehensive Transportation Fund from the Family Independence Agency for employment transportation services, and shall develop a grant program for the use of the funds by local transit agencies which provide transportation for welfare-to-work participants. The department shall coordinate this program with the Family Independence Agency and the Michigan Department of Career Development.
- The department shall evaluate intermodal transportation opportunities in the eastern Upper Peninsula and report its findings to the chairpersons of the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on transportation and the house and senate fiscal agencies.

## Fuel Puttin' the Squeeze on You?

Transit operators among others are now feeling the effect of higher fuel costs on their operations. Would an alternate fuel offer relief to the higher operating costs?

If a comparison is made between different kinds of fuel and their costs per unit of measurement (dollars/ gallon or dollars/gasoline equivalent gallon [GEQ]), the cost cannot be calculated only on the cost of the fuel/gallon but must be calculated on the cost of the total amount of fuel used to traverse a given distance or a fuel cost per mile. All conversion costs and any additional capital costs (building modifications and fuel delivery systems) associated with the conversion must also be considered when making this comparison.

At this point in time, with the technology that is available for diesel engines and available clean diesel fuels (low sulphur and Bio-Diesel), diesel powered vehicles continue to remain the most economical and the most reliable units to operate. If you wish to receive a chart of the cost comparisons of the various fuels available, please contact Jerome Jonson by telephone at 517/335-2568 or by E-mail at [jonsonj@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:jonsonj@mdot.state.mi.us).

For transit agencies that have their own fueling stations, gasoline and diesel fuel may be purchased via the State of Michigan's Extended Purchase Program. Transit agencies may be eligible to become a program member and purchase a wide range of commodities from state contracts, including fuel. For more details and eligibility requirements for this program, please visit the Department of Management and Budget's Web site at [www.state.mi.us/dmb/ooop](http://www.state.mi.us/dmb/ooop), or contact the Office of Purchasing by E-mail at [DMB.purchWeb@state.mi.us](mailto:DMB.purchWeb@state.mi.us), or by telephone at 517/335-0230.

The Passenger TransActions is a quarterly news bulletin produced by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Passenger Transportation Division for the public transit providers in Michigan. Suggestions or comments may be sent to Jill Adams, MDOT/Passenger Transportation Division, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or call 517/373-2051 (E-mail [adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us)). The Passenger TransActions is also available on-line at [www.mdot.state.mi.us/UPTRAN/ptd/pub/current.pdf](http://www.mdot.state.mi.us/UPTRAN/ptd/pub/current.pdf). Alternative formats such as large print, braille, or audio-tape are available upon request by calling Rose Ann Ward 517/335-2598 (E-mail [wardr@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:wardr@mdot.state.mi.us)). Total quarterly cost to print 500 copies: \$72.75 (\$0.15 per copy).

## PTD's Rob Latimer Takes "The Challenge"

Rob Latimer, a commercial motor vehicle safety specialist in PTD's Regulatory Unit, will represent the State of Michigan in August when he competes in the 2001 North American Inspectors Championship, known as "The Challenge." Representatives from the United States, Canada and Mexico will participate in the event which challenges inspectors and officers, the backbone of the commercial vehicle safety program in North America.

At MDOT, Rob inspects private motor carriers statewide. The PTD Regulatory Unit inspects 1,600 buses annually and conducts 700 random inspections and compliance reviews. Best of luck, Rob!

## PTD Celebrates Team Recognition Day

The PTD held a Team Recognition Day on June 27 to celebrate the accomplishments of several special division teams. Congratulations to the 31 team members and five team leaders who received certificates. Teams recognized included:

- Intercity Guideline Team for new intercity bus program guidelines. Lisa Funk, team leader.
- Strategic Plan Team for a new Michigan transit strategic 20-year plan. Linda Tuttle, team leader.
- Master Agreement Team for a new master agreement consolidating 10 annual contracts into one 5-year master agreement. Wynell Brush, team leader.
- Annual Report Team for producing the PTD first Annual Report listing all passenger programs. Jerry Willcutt, team leader.
- Procedure Manual Team for re-engineering and revising all division procedures which are now electronically accessible. Julie Benvenuto, team leader.

Several other division employees were also recognized. Angie Payne and Lori Cole were recognized because both were nominated for the 2001 MDOT Director's Award. Also recognized was Connie Benca who was a member of the "US-131 S-Curve Reconstruction Team" which was awarded a MDOT T.E.A.M. award.

## Transit Vehicle Meetings Held Around the State

Three vehicle meetings were held with transit agencies, Hoekstra Transportation, Eldorado National and MDOT staff to discuss solutions to vehicle issues and concerns. Over 30 transit agencies participated in the meetings held in Marquette, Grayling and Lansing. There was a lot of good information exchanged. Some of the highlights of the meetings were:

- A commitment from Hoekstra Transportation and Eldorado National to conduct an electrical training workshop at several locations in Michigan.
- A regular column in the Passenger TransActions will be devoted to vehicle improvements/bulletins. A chronological list of vehicle improvements/bulletins since the first pilot model buses produced on the cutaway and medium duty contracts will be provided in the next edition of the Passenger TransActions.
- A commitment was made to continue these types of meetings annually.
- MDOT will pursue a new Web site which will allow transit agencies to post or access vehicle and equipment maintenance problems or solutions. These will be categorized so that the data can be used for a variety of reasons.
- MDOT will also pursue a Web site which will allow transit agencies to temporarily post vehicles/ equipment for sale as an additional alternative for disposal.

Thanks again to all who participated. These types of meetings will help to improve the vehicles produced under the State of Michigan contracts. Your participation in future meetings is encouraged. If you have any additional questions, please contact Al Johnson at 517/ 335-2549, or E-mail at [johnsonal@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:johnsonal@mdot.state.mi.us).



**"Providing the highest quality transportation services for  
economic benefit and improved quality of life."**

## **Around the State**

### **Tall Ships Visit Bay City**

In late July, Bay City hosted as many as 12 visiting ships as part of the American Sail Training Association's Tall Ships Challenge—2001™. The Challenge, hosted locally by Tall Ships Celebration: Bay City, was a community-wide waterfront festival celebrating the community's rich ship-building and maritime history.

Bay Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Bay Metro) is the public transportation provider in Bay County. During the Tall Ships Celebration: Bay City, Bay Metro initiated special service and successfully transported over 40,500 visitors in the three-day period. More than 35 drivers volunteered to work Saturday and Sunday in order to meet this extraordinary need.

During the event, 12 visiting tall ships silhouetted the waterfront along the Saginaw River in Downtown Bay City. The ships ranged in size from 188-ft. hamian-gged ncordia (a dern ating ssroom built Poland) to 50-ft. Russian- flagged Saint Paul (a replica constructed entirely by volunteers without the use of power tools).



### **Wedding Bells at BATA**

August 4 was a special day for Amy Taylor, an 11-year veteran of the Branch Area Transit Authority (BATA). On that day, she married Brett Snyder of Coldwater, who is employed with Western Consolidated Technologies located in Fremont, Indiana. Amy has one son, Jeremy.

After the wedding, she will continue in her present capacity at BATA. Our congratulations to Amy and Brett and our very best wishes!!



### **Battle Creek Transit Has New Manager**

Jerry Hutchison was recently promoted to the position of transit manager for the City of Battle Creek Transit Department. Jerry was formerly the senior planner/administrator for the system, a position he has held since 1988. He holds a bachelor's degree in urban development from Michigan State University and a masters in public administration from Western Michigan University.

Jerry's many duties have included development of a service plan for the physically impaired, system marketing, grant preparation, community liaison and general administrative duties. When asked about his outlook for the future of transit service, he said, "In my new position, I will be working with staff to consider our administrative, maintenance and operational needs and resources. We've got a great team here and we'll continue to focus on improvements that meet the needs of our customers."

Jerry, a 22-year city employee, lives in Battle Creek with his wife, Beth, and two daughters, Lindsay and Meredith. A special congratulations to him and our best wishes for continued success!!

### **Marshall Moves Into New Facility**

The City of Marshall Dial-A-Ride service has moved into the newly remodeled and expanded Utility Services Building. The new facilities are very nice and a welcome addition for the transit service. The building is shared with the Water, Electric, Engineering and Building Inspection Departments. The service formerly was operated from City Hall and, most recently, a utility building located at the cemetery.

Bart Cook, transportation coordinator for the City service, is very happy about the new building and believes it will be a real morale booster. Debbie Walbeck, driver supervisor/chief dispatcher, says she and the employees really appreciate the new accommodations.

Congratulations to the City of Marshall for all their hard work!! An open house/media event is planned for the near future.

### **“The Rapid” Rolls Out at ITP**

At its board meeting last month, the Interurban Transit Partnership’s 15-member Board unanimously approved renaming its fixed route service “*The Rapid*.” GRATA logos are being removed from the buses and will soon be replaced with *The Rapid*. The paint scheme and colors will not change—only the decals with the logo will be replaced. As per the Board’s direction, changes will be phased in gradually and will be made as cost effectively and efficiently as possible.



When the transfer agreement became effective on October 1, 2000, the Grand Rapids Area Transit Authority (GRATA) ceased to exist and was replaced by ITP. ITP is organized under Michigan Public Act 196, which outlines the requirements, responsibilities, and powers of a transit district. Since GRATA was not authorized as a transit district under Act 196, ITP truly is a different organization. Much like a college becoming a university, there is a difference in the powers and scope of the organization that necessitate a name change to accurately reflect these differences.

*The Rapid* is now the name of the bus service itself. Much like Sony (the company) offers the Walkman (the product), ITP will govern the transit system named *The Rapid*. This is a common practice in transit systems, including some agencies here in Michigan. For example, the Ann Arbor Transit Authority is the organization that provides bus services under the name The Ride. Similarly, the Muskegon Area Transit System is known as The Shoreline.

When it was clear that the millage had passed and ITP would assume control of the transit district, a committee made up of Board members and staff was created to develop a logo and identity for ITP. When reviewing several logos that were based on the letters “ITP,” the committee concluded that the acronym “ITP” itself was difficult to relate to the mission. It is not meaningful to users or the community and does not provide an immediate and intuitive connection to public transportation. The committee then began looking at brand names for the service. Several choices were considered and discussed, but from the beginning, *The Rapid* was the clear favorite.

No millage money is being used to fund the name change. All millage money is designated for system improvements, which include evening and Sunday service. Many of the items that will change to *The Rapid* are things that would have to be replaced in the normal course of business, such as schedules, system maps, tickets and passes, customer response cards, etc.

Knowing that this name change was a possibility, several projects have been put on hold, so that the new name could be part of the project from the beginning. ITP received a capital grant from the federal government in 1999 to do a system-wide upgrade of bus stop signs. However, this project was put on hold until a new bus stop sign could be designed using the new name. When signs are replaced next spring, all new bus stops will be labeled with *The Rapid*.

The changes made possible by the millage (evening and Sunday service, increased frequencies, specialized employment transportation, the suburban feeder system, and the 44<sup>th</sup> Street Crosstown) will continue to be rolled in as planned. The name change itself will not impact the service.

### **Straits Regional Ride Opens for Business**

The cities of Mackinaw City, Cheboygan, Indian River, Petoskey, and Onaway have all been linked with the opening of a new inter-county bus system, Straits Regional Ride. Eventually the cities of Gaylord, Wolverine, and Vanderbilt will be added to the service area.

The Otsego County Bus System is serving as the system’s operator. The service is geared towards the elderly, the handicapped, or low-income citizens, but anyone can use the system. In the first 20 days of operation, 1,608 people were served - 90 percent in the Cheboygan County area.





## **Around the State** *(continued)*

### **Happy Retirement to Gordon Szlachetka!**

Gordon Szlachetka retired from the City of Jackson Transportation Authority (JTA) on July 31, 2001, after serving as the General Manager for 16 years. JTA experienced great success under Gordon's leadership. He loved trying new, innovative ways to advance JTA and public transit in general - from painted buses to cutting edge diesel engine exhaust particulate traps. His presence in the transit community will be missed.

Gordon plans to spend his retirement wandering around his farm with his favorite cows or becoming a gourmet chef in the South of France. Best wishes, Gordon!



### **PTD Nonurban Unit Welcomes New Supervisor**

Jean Ruestman is the new supervisor of the Nonurban Unit in PTD's Transportation Services Section. She replaces Denny Papoi who retired recently. Jean will be working with the project managers and transit agencies in northern lower Michigan and in the Upper Peninsula.

Jean started with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) as a project manager in 1990. She has worked with a variety of transit agencies, from large urban to specialized service. She has also worked on many special projects, such as developing performance measures for the management systems, assisting in the development of the Public Transportation Management System (PTMS), providing PTMS training, and assisting in the development and implementation of the master agreement process. Jean will be a great addition to the management of the section.

## **Dates to Remember**



PTD Financial Management Training  
August 29-31, 2001: Marquette  
September 26-28, 2001: Frankenmuth  
Karen Stotts 517/335-2529

Elements of Contracting  
October 1-2, 2001  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Wyatt Osato 414/227-3332

American Public Transportation Association  
Annual Meeting  
September 30-October 4, 2001  
Philadelphia, PA  
202/848-4040

PTD Michigan Transit Conference  
October 8-10, 2001  
Midland, MI  
Linda Tuttle 517/373-7645

### **PTD Welcomes New Employees**

Steve Redmond is a new addition to the PTD Nonurban Unit - he replaces Dan Parras who retired in January. Steve will be the project manager for Mason, Lake, Osceola, Mecosta, Newaygo, Oceana, Montcalm, and Ionia counties. Steve previously worked in MDOT's Office of Quality and Re-engineering and in the Planning Bureau. Some of you may be familiar with Steve from his involvement with the Small Urban Program where he managed the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) flex funds for cities with 5,000 to 50,000 population.

Barbara Wickerham joins the PTD Regulatory Unit as a regulatory affairs analyst. Barbara was previously in MDOT's Office of Governmental Affairs and the Design Division. She will be responsible for motor bus credentialing activities, insurance compliance, complaints, law enforcement coordination initiatives, legislative matters, and some limousine issues.

Welcome, Steve and Barbara to the PTD family.

## NDI Newsletter Discusses USDOT Transit Drug and Alcohol Program Compliance Activities

If your agency must comply with the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) drug and alcohol testing regulations, then it is crucial that you read the July 12, 2001 National Diagnostics Inc. (NDI) newsletter that you received. It references 49 CFR Part 40 compliance activities which had to be implemented into your existing drug and alcohol program by August 1, 2001. National Diagnostics Inc. ([www.natldiag.com](http://www.natldiag.com)) is one of the foremost experts in the area of organizational drug and alcohol compliance activities and is the third party administrator for the MDOT Transit Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortia.

You were initially informed of these new federal regulations in the Spring 2001 issue of Passenger TransActions. Hopefully, you have accessed the Web sites referenced in the newsletter or even received a hard copy of the regulations to study.

The DOT modal agencies (transit, motor carrier, aeronautics, etc.) are in various stages of development regarding their own complementary regulations and other related publications as a response to Part 40 (which is applicable to all the DOT agencies). MDOT is planning to provide transit agency training after all the information has been finalized to assist you in these compliance requirements. It is expected that the training sessions will be scheduled in late 2001 or early 2002, depending on the status of the federal documents.

The NDI newsletter was developed to provide you with information regarding the compliance activities which must take place before the training sessions. If you wish to discuss these new requirements, please contact Amy Edgar, PTD Drug and Alcohol Program Coordinator, at 517/373-2261, or E-mail [edgara@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:edgara@mdot.state.mi.us).

## MDOT Photographer May Be In Your Area

Who was that person talking a picture of your bus? It may have been an MDOT photographer. PTD has asked the photographers to visit the transit agencies and take pictures of buses and facilities for use in MDOT publications. So you may get a call from the photographer when he is in your area.

## Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar a Big Success!

In spite of hot and humid weather (at least NO RAIN) and no air conditioning, the 2001 Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar was held June 13-15 and was a big success! The opening day of the seminar featured the Transit Vehicle and Equipment Show where 74 representatives from 44 vendors displayed the latest in buses and bus equipment.

New this year was a Vendors' Reception on Wednesday night held at the Holiday Inn in Grayling. A hearty thanks to Crawford County Transportation Authority for providing bus shuttle service from the DNR MacMullan Center to Grayling and back. Special thanks to the vendors for providing the fabulous door prizes and refreshments during the show and reception.



The workshops on Thursday and Friday were attended by 112 transit personnel from 59 agencies. Our thanks to the instructors provided by fifteen manufacturers for the workshops. Many favorable comments were heard on the excellent quality of the workshops this year.

The seat cushions were appreciated by all. By the way, our thanks to the person who made the suggestion on their comment card last year to purchase seat cushions for this year's seminar. Make sure you remember to bring the cushion to the seminar next year.

It's hard to believe, but next year we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar. Mark your calendar now for June 12-14, 2002 and plan to join us for the seminar's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### Michigan Department of Transportation

Gregory J. Rosine, Director

### Urban and Public Transportation

Philip F. Kazmierski, Deputy Director

### Passenger Transportation Division

Kip Grimes, Administrator

### Transportation Commission

Barton W. LaBelle, Chairman

Jack L. Gingrass, Vice Chairman

Lowell B. Jackson

John W. Garside

Betty Jean Awrey

Ted B. Wahby

# Master Agreement Sessions Held Around the State

During May and June, PTD held eight training sessions around the state to acquaint transit agencies with the new master agreement contracting process. Eighty-six of the 95 agencies receiving the new agreements attended the training sessions. Responses to the new agreement and project authorization process were overwhelmingly supportive. The sessions enabled transit agency representatives and the agreement development team to exchange valuable information and raise some issues of statewide significance. Session discussions included:

- The MDOT approval threshold for non-certified agency third party contracts. The threshold remains at \$25,000, which is a change from the draft version of the Agreement. We are continuing to investigate the possibility of having the State Transportation Commission raise the threshold amount for reviews from \$25,000 to \$100,000. (Section 7)
- The competitive bid threshold. The state has raised the exemption threshold for competitive bid purchasing from \$500 to \$2,500, now consistent with federal requirements. (Agreement Section 7.b)
- Clarification concerning the extent of MDOT's "security interest" in equipment. MDOT has a security interest in all projects we fund. However, MDOT does not expect to be listed as a secured party on vehicles, property or equipment procured by an urban agency. Nonurban agencies must continue to list MDOT as first secured on vehicle titles. All agencies need to notify MDOT prior to disposing of any project equipment. (Agreement sections 6 and 10)
- Activities regarding pre-award. MDOT will allow costs to be incurred for projects in advance of federal and department approval for fiscal year 2002 through 2006, subject to federal allowance and certain conditions. This pre-award process is the same as it has been for a number of years. New to the process is the opportunity to apply the process to state-only and state/local funded projects. However, if costs are incurred for a project that does not receive the necessary state approvals, those costs will not be eligible for reimbursement and will remain the responsibility of the agency. (Agreement Section 32)
- Use of Combined Agreement and Project Authorization Resolution. The possibility of processing one resolution which includes local board approval of the Agreement and delegates signing of project authorizations to an

agency representatives was favorably received by transit representatives. Many representatives indicated they would approach their boards about using the combined resolution.

The final Agreement varied little from the draft used at the sessions. The Agreement is in effect during fiscal years 2002 through 2006. Programs included in the Agreement are sections 5307, 5309, 5311 operating and capital, 3037 (Job Access/Reverse Commute), 5313/SPR, Project Zero, Regional, Specialized Services and 100 percent state capital projects. Programs not included are section 5310, Marine, Intercity and Rideshare/Vanpool. Agreements were mailed to agencies in mid-June and are to be returned to UPTRAN by **August 31, 2001**.

Project managers are available to answer questions regarding the new agreement or to assist in presenting the agreement, project authorizations, and the accompanying required resolutions to members of policy boards.

## Glossary of New Language in the Agreement

**Agreement** - The legal contracting document which establishes the terms for project funding issued by and through MDOT for the following programs: sections 5309, 5307, 5311 operating and capital, 3037 (Job Access/Reverse Commute), 5313/SPR, Project Zero, Regional, Specialized Services and 100 percent state capital projects.

**Amendment** - The process and resulting document used to change the scope or terms of the Agreement. (See Agreement Section 5)

**Budget adjustment** - The process and resulting document used to change an existing line-item in a project authorization. Such changes may include additions/deletions to the quantities and description in a specific line-item and may delete in whole or part of a line-item if it is determined that each change is justified to fulfill the purpose of the project authorization. (See Agreement Section 5)

**Project authorization** - The process and resulting document by which a specific project is to be carried out by the agency under the terms of the Agreement. It identifies the funding program and dollar amounts and information specific to the project not included in the Agreement.

**Revision** - The process and resulting document used to make major changes to the project authorization. Such changes may include adding a new line-item, changing the total funding amount, or extending the term or scope of the project authorization. (See Agreement Section 5)



## 2001 Michigan Small Bus Rodeo Was a Rootin' Tootin' Success!

Wee-Ha! The 2001 Michigan Small Bus Rodeo was held on July 10, 2001, and 58 drivers from 25 transit agencies around the state lined up to have a chance to tame the wild "Bully."



Individual honors went to: First Place - Dennis Bassett of Barry County Transit; Second Place - Len Schmidt of CATA; and Third Place - Tom Byrd of Gladwin County Transit. These three individuals are eligible to compete in the Community Transportation Association of America's National Rodeo in Austin, Texas in May 2002.

Team honors went to: First Place - Rosco Mini-Bus with team members James Smith, Mark Kauffman, and Mark Griffith; Second Place - Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) with team members Steve Soliz, Nancy Irvine and Len Schmidt; and Third Place - Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS) with team members George Adams, Mike Jean, and Ken Hollis.

For the first time, Michigan Public Transit Association (MPTA) and MDOT gave out a "Rookie Award." The lucky rookie was Henry Hernandez of Jackson Transportation Authority. Henry had the highest overall score of all registered rookies.

Wow - what a ball game! Thanks to Hoekstra Transportation Inc. and ElDorado National for sponsoring the trip to Oldsmobile Park to enjoy dinner at the ballpark and to watch the Lansing Lugnuts take on the Dayton Dragons. Nothin's better than a night at the ballpark and chowin' down on good food and watching a good game.

A special thank you to all of the judges from the police and sheriff departments from the area and all of the UPTRAN volunteers! Thanks to MPTA, Hoekstra Transportation Inc. and ElDorado National for sponsoring the rodeo, and helping us show our appreciation to all the transit drivers for the work they do every day.



2001 Small Bus Rodeo Individual Winners: (left to right) Len Schmidt (2<sup>nd</sup> place); Tom Byrd (3<sup>rd</sup> place); and Dennis Bassett (1<sup>st</sup> place).

## PTD Training and Education Team Meets

On June 7, 2001, the Training and Education team met at the new Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) Training Center in Flint. This new facility will be valuable for MTA training activities, as well as other Flint organizations. Also, it may be used for regional transit training sessions.

The team discussed Safety First (a safety project submitted for Service Development and New Technology funding), the postponement of the drug and alcohol training, *ADA...the Bus Stops Here* (a new Project Action training program), Mechanic Proficiency Requirements (MTA), and *Get Out and Look* (a MTA safety program).

If you would like any additional information on the Training and Education team's activities, please contact Amy Edgar at 517/373-2261, or E-mail [edgara@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:edgara@mdot.state.mi.us).

## Comments Requested on the FY 2003 Annual Application Instructions

Significant changes are proposed for the FY 2003 Annual Application Instructions due to comments submitted by transit agencies during the last annual application cycle. During the first two weeks of September, a draft of the instructions will be posted on the PTD Web site for review and comment ([www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/ptd](http://www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/ptd), under What's New). Send your comments to your project manager or to Gus Llubes by E-mail at [llubesg@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:llubesg@mdot.state.mi.us).

The final FY2003 Annual Application Instructions will be discussed at the Michigan Transit Conference in October (see article below). The Annual Application Instructions will be mailed during November 2001 and the due dates are the same as in previous years - February 1 and March 1.

## Michigan Transit Conference "Takes a New Look" at Transit

Mark your calendar for the Michigan Transit Conference on October 8-10, 2001, at the Valley Plaza Resort Hotel and Convention Center in Midland. Highlights for the conference this year are:

Panel on "Transit Vision"

Panel on "MDOT and Public Transit"

Leadership Session: Gung Ho! With Ken Blanchard

Michigan Geographic Framework Program

Breakout Sessions:

Employee Dismissal & Documentation, Attorney Tony Comden

The ADA - A National Perspective with Arthur Lopez, USDOT

Cost Allocation Plans

TA Roundtables

Media Training

Annual Application on PTMS

Joe Caruso - "Don't Let the View Get in the Way of the Vision"

Director Greg Rosine

Open 'Mic'

Vendor Exhibits & Vendor Reception

Special networking events

Registration forms will be mailed by mid-August and may also be found at <http://www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/PTD/index.htm> under "What's New."

If you have any questions about the Michigan Transit Conference, call Linda Tuttle at 517/373-7645, or E-mail [tuttlel@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:tuttlel@mdot.state.mi.us).

